The Great Giver.

Written for and read at a harvest meeting of J. M. Rittgers' church, near Sweet Home, Ind., July 24, 1887, by

MRS. MURREY E. SIGERFOOSE.

There is no country 'neath the shining sun,
That owes so much to God's assuring smile,
No hand since April's vernal showers first begun
To fill the new-born earth with fruit and flowers,
So much in debt as this wide land of ours.

In debt—to that all-gracious Power,
Who holds within His hand the clouds and wind.
Who sends to just and unjust, all, both breeze and showers,
Nor stints the yielding fields though man witholds,
His praise ungreatful still for e'en and hundred fold.

How fast the passing year, with silent tread,
Is gathering up the golden moments, hours and days;
And with them all the "might have been's" have fled,
We heard them not, and yet, for off voices seem to stay,
"For logging feet, for hands witheld we dare not stay."

Today 'neath summers heat the shorn fields lie,
Betwixt wide rows of green and waveing corn
Stilled—within their sunny length the harvest's cry,
In calm content they rest 'neath rain and sun,
Waiting methinks, for God to say well done.

And so doth come the thought of the fields that wait,
The hand of him who gathers for the Lord,
Wide weed grown fields without the gate,
Where tares with thorns and thistles grow,
Great wastes of human heart wherein to sow.

About these fields that lie so close to view,
The spirit ceasless cries, "go in and work."
Behold the Father sends the rain and early dew,
Ye may not measure all the gain with mortal eye,
Nor that reward that waits earth's toilers by and by.

Oh, pray—the Spirits harvest time may wait the days
That fly unused beneath our slothful feet,
That while amid the world's dark toilsome ways,
We plough and sow we may not reap in vain,
But faithful wait God's time for sun and rain.

Dialogistic Declamation, rendrered at the S. S. Convention, at Fair Haven, Ohio, May 30th, 1885.

NAMES OF PERFORMERS:
A., B., C., D.

Con.—All speak in concert.

A. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

B. What *is* greatness as it relates to the kingdom of heaven?

C. "Not great like Cæsar stained with blood,
But only great, as we are good."

D. I conceive the true elements of greatness to center in God, and consist in goodness and beauty; for the Prophet, Zechariah, says of God, "How great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! And David speaks of the "Beauty of the Lord."

A. Are we not taught in the Gospel, that there is none good, but one, that is God?

B. That is a fundamental truth and evinces the fact that all greatness, goodness, and beauty is from God, and can be possessed by His Son, by angels, by man, and in nature, only as derived from the Father.

C. What object lesson did Christ use to demonstrate this truth?

D. He took a little child and set him in the midst of them and said, "Verily I say unto you,"

A. "Except ye become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven."

B. Wherein do children reflect the elements of greatness?

C. In humility; they humbly confide in their parents, and believe what they say.

D. In innocence; they have not been defiled with sin.

A. In goodness and beauty; they have not learned to do evil, and their beauty has not been marred by the sorrows and cares of this world.

B. They are heirs of the kingdom of heaven by virtue of the atonement; for Christ says:

Con. "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

C. In view of all this, what are the responsibilities of the parents, the pastors, and the church?

D. All parents should look upon their children as heaven's treasure, confided to them, and should "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

A. All pastors should endeavor to cultivate an interest and desire in the minds of both parents and children to be regular attendants at church.

B. By what means is he expected to accomplish this?

C. By good deportment.

D. By visiting families.

A. By preaching good sermons.

B. Adapted to the wants and understanding of all

Con. And especially to the understanding of children.

C. All churches should maintain a well-regulated Sabbath School—not enshrouded in the mysteries of defunct usages, customs, and fashions of past generations, but by cultivating a love for the good and the beautiful, both in nature and revelation, in all things availing themselves of the most approved method of the age in which we live. Christ admired the beauty of the lily, and said:

Con. "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of them."

D. What is the present answer to our question?

A. Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as a little child, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

B. What is the future and final answer to our question?

C. The Patriarchs, Moses, and the Prophets were great in their day, but they will not be the greatest, for they are only servants of God,

D. The Apostles, and Fathers of the Church, were great in their day, but they were only the servants of the Church.

A. The Reformers and martyrs during the middle, ages, were great in their day, but they are only witnesses of the Truth of God.

B. The angels in heaven are, and always have been great, but they are only God's servants and messengers.

C. John the Baptist was great, but Christ says, He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

D. Christ humbled himself as a little child, and as a son, learned obedience even to the death of the cross.

A. Wherefore, God has also highly exalted him, and has given him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, shall confess that he is Lord, to the honor and glory of the Father.

Con. At this time, Christ is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

B. Why is Christ greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

C. Because he was the greatest that was with the Father before our world was made; and in his humiliation he became the least; he was rich, but for our sakes he became poor.

Con. "That we through his poverty might become rich."

D. And that "He might gather together the Saints of all ages, nations, and languages, and with the assistance of the angels, marshal them through the golden streets of the New Jerusalem.

A. And upon the Elysian fields of glory in innumerable multitudes, present them to the Father and say:

Con. "Behold I and the children which thou hast given me."

B. Will Christ continue forever to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

C. He will reign until he has put all enemies under his feet, and when death, which is the last enemy, shall be destroyed, when Christ shall be acknowledged and obeyed by all, He shall give the noblest and grandest evidence of his greatness, by delivering up the kingdom to his Father, and himself becoming subject that "God may be all in all."

D. Hence, the future and final answer to our question is, God, the eternal, invisible, and immutable, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Con. Is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven—world without end. Amen.

A. Amen. B. Amen. C. Amen. D. Amen.

Are the Brethren Running Out?

Frequently it is predicted by thoughtless people and some too, from whom better things are expected, that the Brethren church is loosing ground. The indications are that she is going to be short lived, or when expressed in home spun language, "They are running out," and so forth. Especially is this the case in isclated localities, or where the brethren are few in number.

The fact is the brethren have been "running out" all the time since the reorganization at Dayton city. And we believe that the good Lord has had a hand in this kind of "running" that the Holy Spirit has assisted in a wonderful manner, and we trust that they will continue "to run" until the end of time.

We rejoice that we are not "running out" in number, but into states and territories, cities and towns. About six months ago an organization was effected in "the city of brotherly love." Now they number one half hundred. Perchance a new house of worship will soon be erected, and dedicated. When all things are taken into consideration a great work has already been accomplished in the city of Philadelphia.

A few months ago a church was dedicated in Maryland. Judging from the numerous reports in the EVANGELIST, the brethren in Virginia are not standing still, but with might and mind are keeping the ball rolling.

We take a view of our own state, and all seem to be actively engaged in trying to extend the borders of Zion. Especially in the Miami Valley. Almost every week we learn of some new conquests being made, and some new interest being worked up for the Master.

A little farther on and there is Ind., with Bro. Swihart, Summers, Ridenour and a score of others, who are steadily and continually "running out" so that churches are being organized all over the state. Some have also run up into Michigan and planted the gospel banner there. If the people will accept and heed the teachings of the blessed Bible. They need not perish for want of the bread of life. Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska are not left to faint by the wayside, for a lack of a "religious zeal." Considering the disadvantages the brethren are subject to in those states, they surely have been very successful in church extension.

The good work of "running out" has finally reached Dakota. The good people in that new country can now assemble themselves together and worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.

California and Oregon too have some brethren and sisters who deserve much praise for their arduous labors and untireing zeal in building up the cause of Christ.

Viewing the Brethren church from a geographical standpoint, we have been running from the Atlantic to the Pacific. From one of the great Lakes to the Chesapeake Bay.

KATE YOST.

John The Baptist.

Herald of Christ, the day is come,
Day by prophetic lips foretold,
When from the shadow of the tomb
The page of life shall be unrolled;
The day-light dawns; the bright beams glow;
First witness of that Light art thou.

Greatest among the sons of clay,
Less then the least in heaven's domain,
Last of the old world, called away
Ere God in man restores his reign:
Thou seest the dawn climb up the skies,
Yet mayst not see the Sun arise.

Those beams shall tint the humblest cot,
Shall flood the plains of earth with light,
Thou mayst not feel them; 'tis thy lot
To stand upon the skirts of night,
Didst thou not long to see that morn?
Rejoice: thou seest the daylight dawn.

'Tis thine in desert paths to stand
And cry, "The Lord's highway prepare!"
Heaven's promised kingdom is at hand,
Make straight the rugged pathways there!
Lay low the hills his steps before,
Who comes with fan to purge the floor.

"Upon the hills I hear his feet,
He comes to burn the chaff with fire,
And he will gather in his wheat
Upon the day of wrath and ire:
The axe is laid unto the root,
Woe to the tree that bears no fruit!"

—*Gerard Moultrie.*